

IDAHO COMMUNITY TREES

A NEWS BULLETIN FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO AND THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS—COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM

News You Can Use

No. 28 Fall 2003

Great learning opportunities ahead!

See page 3.

Coordinator's Column

Funding for Idaho's Community Forestry Program is at Risk

Since the creation of the National Urban and Community Forestry Program in 1991, states have received funding from the USDA Forest Service to provide technical, educational and financial assistance to communities to help develop and improve programs to care for their trees. This funding has been allocated based on a national formula that includes population, expected urban growth, number of cities, and the number of Tree City USA communities in the state. However, language in next fiscal year's Congressional Appropriations Bill directs the Forest Service to change this formula because it "...discriminates against States with large urban areas and directs funds to States with many tiny communities..."

Since Idaho ranks 39th in population and is characterized by smaller, widely spaced communities, this language, if passed, will likely have a significant impact on Idaho's program. In a recent *Call to Action* letter to Idaho's Tree City USA communities from the Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council, Chair Jack McGee, noted that "...while the Council recognizes the importance of community forests to large urban areas, the importance is no less in smaller communities. These communities do not have access to the support structure common in densely populated locations – universities, non-profit organizations, county extension offices with horticulture agents, and economies of scale for resource management and fundraising. They are compelled to rely on the expertise provided by the Urban and Community Forestry staff of the Idaho Department of Lands. Any reduction in this funding will have an immediate and direct impact on Idaho Communities."

Many of Idaho's communities have benefited from IDL's Community Forestry Program:

- Since 1998 one-quarter of all Idaho cities received Community Forestry grants totaling more than \$250,000 and leveraging nearly \$640,000 in local funds. Because of the program, an additional \$100,000 per year (\$400,000 to date) in Idaho Transportation Department funds have

(continued on page 2)



James R. Fazio

Cemetery policies, like those in Post Falls, that allow or encourage trees provide beauty and other benefits to the entire community

Trees and Cemeteries

There is no sad occasion in this photo of the Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council visiting a cemetery. Quite to the contrary. Evergreen Cemetery was a stop on a tour led by Post Falls City Forester Linden Lampman to demonstrate one more good use of trees in our communities.

New trees in Post Fall's cemetery are purchased as memorial trees. A tree and permanent plaque costs a donor approximately \$325. Friends or relatives of the deceased are shown a book of trees from which they may choose, then Lampman takes it from there. Memorial trees are not only lasting tributes to the departed, they also provide a nice diversity of ages within the next generation of trees in the cemetery.

Evergreen is a good example of how cemetery policies should be designed around the community and not solely for the maintenance crews. Abundant trees scattered throughout the area provide summer shade and cooling, beauty, homes for wildlife, air purification and other public benefits. Mulch rings help accommodate mowers while protecting tree trunks, and the approved list of trees assures that only suitable species are planted. Similarly, posts and concrete aprons around the tombstones allow for interesting monuments, flowers and flags that provide satisfaction to loved ones and appropriate memorials for the deceased – while not unduly interfering with maintenance.

(Comments continued from pg. 1)

likewise been granted to Idaho Cities, leveraging an additional \$750,000 in local expenditures.

- In 1996 Idaho had 10 Tree Cities. Today 61 Idaho cities fly the Tree City flag with pride. Idaho currently ranks third in the nation in the number of Tree Cities as a percentage of total cities in the state. Last year, Idaho also ranked third in the total number of new Tree Cities.
- More than half of all Idaho cities have received significant technical assistance from IDL/RC&D's three commu-



Idaho Community Trees is published four times a year by the College of Natural Resources, Department of Resource Recreation & Tourism, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83844. Direct editorial matters to James R. Fazio, Editor: 208/885-7209; fax 208/885-6226; e-mail jfazio@uidaho.edu.

For address changes, program assistance or additional information, contact, Community Forestry Coordinator, Idaho Dept. of Lands, 3780 Industrial Ave. South, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815; 1-800-IDAHO4U = 1-800-432-4648 or 208/666-8621; fax 208/769-1524; email communitytrees@idl.state.id.us).

Field Offices

North Idaho: Sue Izard, C. F. Ass't., P.O. Box 1003, Moscow, ID 83843. Ph. 208/892-8543.

Southwest Idaho: Debbie Cook, C. F. Ass't., 3117 N. Penny Royal, Boise, ID 83713. Ph. 208/377-2938.

Southeast Idaho: Gerry Bates, C. F. Ass't., 2445 John Adams Parkway, Idaho Falls, ID 83401. Ph. 208/522-5964.

Permission is hereby given to duplicate and distribute this newsletter for educational purposes. Credit is appreciated.

printed on recycled paper

nity forestry assistants. This includes help with ordinance development, inventories, landscape design, funding opportunities, proper tree planting and maintenance, volunteer coordination and much more. Additionally, last year Idaho citizens volunteered more than 9,000 days to help care for their community tree resource.

Still, we are far from our goal of adequately caring for our community trees and most cities do not budget sufficient funds to maintain one of the most valuable resources they have. The federal funding Idaho receives is critical to fulfilling this mission. Please consider letting your leaders – at the city, state and national level – know your concern for community forestry and the value of the assistance you have received. We all need to be better at communicating our successes.

— David Stephenson
*Community Forestry
Coordinator*

Tree Care Videos Available

A 10-part video series on caring for community trees in Idaho has been completed by the Three Rivers RC&D and Pocatello Tree Commission. Sponsored by the U. S. Forest Service and hosted by IDL Community Forestry Assistant Gerry Bates, the set is now available for \$80 plus shipping and handling. Each episode addresses topics that tree owners and caretakers should know in order to properly plan, plant and maintain landscape trees. Guests in the series include local certified arborists, community foresters and nursery professionals. Length of each tape is from 22 to 45 minutes and information is presented in a way that is easily understood by everyone. Topics include:

- Site Selection
- Tree Selection
- Planting
- Fundamentals of Pruning
- Training Young Trees
- Trees and Water
- Tree Problems and Maintenance
- Trees and Utilities
- Community Forestry



Gerry Bates

Videos on tree care produced for Bannock County and vicinity are now available statewide.

The series has been broadcast on Pocatello's Community Access Channel and is available for free loan from all public libraries in the Three Rivers RC&D area. Others may order from Paula Jones, Coordinator, Three Rivers RC&D, 1551 Baldy, Pocatello, ID 83201 (208/237-4628 x 104 or email Paula.Jones@id.usda.gov.) Technical consultants and script writers for the project were Sandra Thorne-Brown and Deborah Jeppson. Videographer was Ken Wilson.

Spokane Names 'Tree of the Year'

Ponderosa pine has been named 'Tree of the Year' for 2003 by the local Urban Forest Council. The Council has initiated a public information campaign to make city residents aware that 'urban loggers' seek out these large, old trees, and that the city stands to lose environmental benefits by removal of its native pines. The campaign is also intended to save mature trees during construction or remodeling projects and to discourage homeowners from removing the trees because of needles and cones that are shed annually.



Mike Venso

Ponderosa pines are native to large sections in the eastern half of Idaho

Update Your Work Plan

As a new year approaches, Community Forestry Assistant Gerry Bates offers some advice to tree boards:

Community forestry, by the very nature of tree longevity, is a program of the future. Decisions and recommendations of a tree committee need to be made with these long term goals in mind:

- To provide your citizens with a hazard free, healthy and aesthetically pleasing community forest.
- To provide the most cost effective community forestry program available within budget limitations.
- To maximize the contribution that trees will make to the economic development potential of the community.

Based on the above, your tree committee should identify the following annual and long term actions:

1. Define management areas such as:
 - Municipal rights-of-way and banks of water ways.
 - Areas that interface with infrastructure.
 - City parks, golf courses, and cemeteries.
 - Downtown planting spaces.
 - Street trees.
 - City tree nurseries.
 - Utility easements.
2. Complete and study a tree inventory. A current inventory with its resulting data summaries will allow managers or tree board members to assess species and age diversity/distribution, identify hazardous trees, and formulate work plans to assure the continued health of the community forest.
3. Set benchmarks that allow you to measure progress and the success of your program.
4. Develop action strategies. They will help you get where you want to go.

Throughout, encourage diverse, citizen involvement! This will help create favorable public opinion as well as tap into broader financial support, a larger labor pool, and a richer source of brain-power. If you need help updating your plan, contact the community forestry assistant in your area (see masthead). You may also contact the CDA office and request a free copy of Tree City USA Bulletin No. 29, *How to Plan for Management*.

**Keep A Great
Thing Growing
AMERICA
TREE CITY USA™**

Calendar

November 13-15, 2003

Tree Care Industry Expo, Baltimore, MD
(www.natlarb.com)

January 20, 2004

Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council, Safari Best Western, Boise (David Stephenson, 208/666-8621 or communitytrees@idl.state.id.us)

January 21-23

Idaho Horticulture Show, Boise Centre, Boise (Ann Bates, 800/INA-GROW or www.inagrow.org/ihs.htm)

January 28

Proper Tree Planting, Spokane Community College, Spokane (Jim Flott at 509/363-5495 or capps.wsu.edu/ttlc/)

January 29-30

Inland Northwest Turf, Tree & Landscape Conference, Coeur d'Alene Resort, CDA (WSU Conference Office at 800/942-4978 or capps.wsu.edu/ttlc/)

March 29-31

Trees & Utilities National Conference, Omaha, NE (National Arbor Day Foundation @ 402/474-5655 or www.arborday.org/programs/conferencelist.html)

May 4

Hazard Trees Workshop, Spokane Community College (National Arbor Day Foundation; see above)

May 5

Trees, People and the Law Seminar, Spokane Community College (National Arbor Day Foundation; see above)

June 28-30

Community Forestry at Its Best National Conference, Nebraska City, NE (National Arbor Day Foundation; see above)

Upcoming Arborist Certification Exams

Nov. 15, 2003, Morning
Wilsonville, OR

Dec. 6, 2003, Morning
North Vancouver, BC

For information or to register, contact: Pacific Northwest Chapter, International Society of Arboriculture at 503/874-8263 or 217/355-9411 or email info@pnwisa.org.



* G T Y 1 0 6 *



University of Idaho

Department of Resource Recreation and Tourism

University of Idaho

PO Box 441139

Moscow, ID 83844-1139

PRSRT STD

U.S. Postage

PAID

University of Idaho

This newsletter is made possible in part by a grant from the USDA Forest Service. The USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. To file a complaint call (202) 720-5964.

Tree tip

When Planting, Think Ahead – Way Ahead

If you are planning a large planting project such as along a street or in an old field, take a few steps now to ensure success later. Remember, the soil and the site may be quite altered from natural conditions due to past digging or earth-moving. So...

- ✓ Consider applying herbicide to rid the area of weeds. Your county extension service is the best place for advice on this.
- ✓ Have the soil tested. For about \$50 you can have the soil checked for pH and element deficiency. This will guide species selection and fertilization, if needed at all. Phone 208/885-7900 for more information.
- ✓ Consider investing in the installation of drip irrigation.
- ✓ Plan for equipment to break up compacted soils.
- ✓ Check for underground utilities by phoning 800/342-1585 and check with the Idaho Transportation Dept. for permits if planting in state or federal road rights-of-way.

Many thanks to Sue Izzard, Community Forestry Assistant, for this Tree Tip, and to The National Arbor Day Foundation for the art.



Soil testing and other preparation will prevent wasted money and assure tree planting success.